

Another plant bug, *Mecomma dispar* (Boheman) is also a surprising addition to the list. Although a boreo-montane species, this bug has an odd distribution in Britain involving the north and west—as might be expected—but also Surrey, East Anglia and a few Midland counties, but is rare in the South West (Southwood & Leston, 1959). Its habitat associations are also diverse, including rank vegetation, on marshes, on sand dunes, and also in short turf on sea cliffs. One was swept along a wide grassy ride in Siccaridge Wood (VC33; SO90), 11.vi.2003.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to record my thanks to Colin Twissell and other members of the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group who have accompanied me on recording trips and often found the more interesting bugs for me. Access was usually arranged by Rosie Cliffe of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, who also commissioned some reserve surveys during 2003, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Thanks also to Bernard Nau and Pete Kirby for help with determinations; and to Andy Foster and John Widgery for passing on their records.

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

***Schreckensteinia festaliella* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Schreckensteiniidae) on an unusual food-plant in the Outer Hebrides.** – On 30.vii.2005 in the gorge-woodland near the mouth of Allt Volagir (O.S. Grid NF7929), on South Uist (VC110), many of the hazel trees (*Corylus avellana*) had marked “browning” of the leaves. Closer inspection revealed that this browning took the form of many small elongate areas of windowing, due to larval feeding removing portions of the upper epidermis parallel to the larger veins. Careful searching soon revealed the characteristic green larva of *Schreckensteinia festaliella* feeding exposed on the upper surface of the leaf. These larvae subsequently formed the typical spindle-shaped network cocoons of *S. festaliella*.

In my experience in Scotland, *S. festaliella* larvae normally feed on raspberry, *Rubus idaeus*, and less frequently on bramble, *R. fruticosus* agg. and stone bramble, *R. saxatilis*. On South Uist, the brambles under and near the infested hazel trees had signs of *S. festaliella* larval feeding, but to a far lesser extent than the hazel bushes. This report appears to be the first record of *S. festaliella* from the Outer Hebrides (VC110) and the first report of hazel as a food-plant for this species. – K. P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, The Granton Centre, 242 West Granton Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1JA.